In accordance with a suggestion from the Chairman, it was then on motion,

Resolved,—That Prof. Locke have permission to take casts of the Fossils now in the Collection of the Academy.

MEETING FOR BUSINESS, May 31, 1842.

Vice President Morton in the Chair.

The Report of the Corresponding Secretary for the last month was read and adopted.

The Committee to whom was referred the following communication from Mr. S. S. Haldeman, read Feb. 1, 1842, reported in favour of publication in the Proceedings of the Academy.

A spirit of selfishness has crept into Zoology, which looks rather to the advantage of the individual, than to the advancement of the science; and authors, with the former point in view, have invented various methods to carry out the principle; and, what is worse, *authority* brings those to practice them, who would have been shocked at the idea of using them in the first instance. Among these, I count the practice of citing one's own name for a genus or species founded by another, on the strength of varying a single letter, or even the gender. Examples of this occur in the writings of Rafinesque. If this is proper, a printer may assume the authorship of a book in which he finds and corrects grammatical errors. Admit the principal that Unio metanevra, Raf. shall be called U. metannever, Lea: and the French will have our own authority to assume almost every species of American Unio, because they consider them as of the feminine gender, whilst they have been described here as masculine; and any one not a botanist, may place the species of Potamogeton (heretofore considered neuter) in the feminine gender to which it belongs, as has been ascertained from a passage in Pliny.

Having recently looked over the list of American Unionidæ, I wish to propose a few corrections in nomenclature, before they are made, and the species appropriated abroad, by some one who will not cite the original describer. A western conchologist gives all the species of Alasmodon to Mr. Lea, not because he was the first to name them, to create the genus, or to place them in it; but because he places them in the *same* genus with those who first described them, but under a differ-

ent name, which has neither priority nor sense to recommend it; and which, under other circumstances, this author would probably have rejected, if we may judge from the fact that he adopts the names Physa and Planorbis, rather than Bulinus and Corctus. The same principle would deprive Mr. Lea of all his species of Alasmodon; for assuredly authors will not adopt Shumacher's name for this genus, when so much a better one is in general use. Generic nomenclature is not, and never has been, subjected to the rigid rule of priority which species require; and a name founded upon the generic peculiarity will generally be adopted in preference to others. A fossil animal with a head unlike that of a bird, was named Ornithocephalus; it is now called Pterodactylus. A remarkable mammal with flat feet, and a bill like that of a bird, was first named Platypus, but is now known by the name Ornithorhynchus* alone.

To put these matters to the test. I propose that the letter *u* shall take the place of *w* in the specific name of Unio Cowperianus of Lea, this gentleman having committed an error in the orthography. To suit the views of those who do not like the appearance of a name with the termination anus following a genitive, I propose that *Couperii* be adopted instead of the above. There is an "Anodonta Cowperiana" which I do not correct, because I wish merely to discuss a principle. I propose that all the species of the genus Alasmodon† or Alasmodonta, be called by one of these names; and that the hybrid specific name of Unio Nashvillianus be changed into the more correct and classical one of Nashvicensis. Finally, I disclaim all citation for these propositions, as I think it would be the height of absurdity to cite any one for species he does not know.

In relation to the communication of Dr. A. Clapp, of New Albany, Indiana, read March 8th, 1842, the Committee consisting of Mr. Conrad, Prof. Rogers and Mr. Vanuxem, reported the following for publication in the Proceedings:—

A letter was read from Dr. A. Clapp of New Albany, Indiana, dated February 25th, in relation to the Geological equivalents of the rocks of the Falls of the Ohio, and other strata in the Western States.

The author states, that there appears to be little or no true carboniferous limestone east of the Falls of the Ohio. The stratum which he doubtfully referred to it, in a previous letter of December, 1840, viz the Oolitic and Pentremite limestone of Professor Troost and Dr. Owen, he is now convinced is the carboniferous limestone, commencing a short distance west of New Albany, and underlying the coal formation in the western part of Indiana, part of Kentucky and Illinois. It is entirely wanting in Ohio.

He refers to his previous communication of April last, as showing that the limestone of the Falls of the Ohio, the cliff limestone of Professor Locke, does not belong to the Carboniferous, but to the Upper Silurian System of Murchison. The limestone of the Falls immediately underlies the black bituminous slate, which appears to be the equivalent of the Marcellus shales of New York. The lower strata of the Falls have many fossils of the Wenlock limestone, but the

* The middle *h* is sometimes omitted, as it was by Linneus in his genus Rynchops. Is the first author who made the omission, and he who first wrote *Rhynchops*, entitled to these genera, with their species? In a notice of Kiener's work, in the Revue Zoologique, this author is censured for writing "Pleurotonia nitræ, formis, *Val*," Wood having previously used the specific name "mitriformis."

† This is the more correct form, and corresponds with Monodon, Hyodon, Diodon, etc.

upper, particularly the water lime, has also many of the Ludlow. The lower and middle portions of the Cliff limestone, he conjectures to be equivalents of the Niagara limestone and Gypseous shales: the entire mass called the Cliff limestone, represents therefore the Niagara limestone, Gypseous shales, water-lime, Onondaga limestone, &c. to the Marcellus shales. Under the name Cliff limestone is here included all the group above the blue limestone and marls of Cincinnati, to the black slate. It is the western continuation of the middle Silurian series of Mr. Conrad.

The water-lime of the Falls of the Ohio, is a drab-coloured rock, from ten to fourteen feet thick, covered by a subcrystalline fœtid limestone eight feet thick, containing *Encrini*, a *Conularia*, *Delthyris* and *Favosites*, and a few other corals, and immediately underlies the black slate. In most places the water-lime is entirely destitute of organic remains; the few which occur belong to the lower Ludlow and Amestry of Murchison, as *Orthis lunata vel reticularis*, *leptæna lata?* *Turbo carinatus*, *Terebra sinuosa*, *Tentaculites*, perhaps a new species, *Avicula reticulata*, *Calymene bufo*, *Asaphus Micrurus;* several undetermined species of Delthyris, an Eschara, &c.

In the strata below the water-lime were found many fossils of the Wenlock limestone, *Strophomena euglypha*, *Atrypa prisca*, the latter also occurring in the water-lime and upper limestone; *Pleurorynchus cureous?* of Conrad, and an immense profusion of Polyparia, characteristic of the Wenlock limestone.

The Catænepora occurs below the main mass of the corals, and thirty or forty feet below the water-lime. It would therefore appear, that the water-lime belongs to the middle or upper part of the Hederburg group, and cannot represent the Onondaga salt group of Mr. Hall.

The author expresses a doubt of the identity of the black bituminous slate of Ohio, with the Ludlowville group of Mr. Hall, as supposed by that gentleman. Though the shales and sandstone in the vicinity of New Albany, for more than four hundred feet above the black slate, are destitute of fossils, except a few indistinct *Fucoides*, yet sixteen miles south, in Kentucky, great quantities of Crinoidæa occur, fifty or one hundred feet above the slate; and an Orthis which Mr. Hall considers identical with a species of the Ludlowville shale of New York.

ELECTION.

M. Léon Dufour, of Paris, was duly elected a correspondent of the Academy.